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DRILL OPERATORS GUIDELINES AND CHECKLIST FOR SMALL SEEDS.

Particular attention when sowing small seeds such as grass and oilseed rape.

Apart from the usual precautions when handling treated seed, (see above), small seeds require **extra vigilance** as their total surface area is larger than ones like beans and peas which is one of the reasons why more dressing is required.

Small seeds can cause additional problems compared to peas and beans. Small seeds often escape through small holes in drilling equipment so **extra care needs to be taken when loading the drill and handling bags.**

- WEAR SUITABLE PROTECTIVE CLOTHING (COVERALLS) AND SUITABLE PROTECTIVE GLOVES** when handling treated seed and leave them with the seed before entering the tractor cab. This will help to reduce any dressing contaminating in the working area.
- Ensure that the drill manufacturer** supports the use to drill small seeds and ask the company for any additional assistance to make sure it is set correctly. **Take extra care to calibrate the drill accurately**; most drills that can be used with small seeds have a very fine setting to increase accuracy.
- DO NOT** drill too fast as this may encourage drill coulters to come out of the ground and thereby leave seed on the soil surface.
- DO NOT** broadcast or autocast treated seed as this makes burial very inconsistent and may allow birds and other wildlife to eat it.
- To prevent seeds** being released whilst in transit it may be better to take them to the field where they can be loaded into the drill.
- Ideally ensure that the drill is moving forwards **BEFORE** lowering the coulters into the soil **THEN** open feeding mechanism and shut off seed feeding mechanism about 1 metre before the end of a row. This will help prevent seed being left on the surface.
- Before leaving the field** try to have the drill as empty as possible as this will reduce dispersal when in transit between fields.



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- Collect ALL EMPTY BAGS** before leaving the field and return them in as secure a way as possible to the pesticide disposal area. **NEVER** re-use the bags for another purpose. **Put empty bags** inside each other; this will help reduce accidental spillage.

- NEVER eat, drink or smoke** until hands and other exposed areas have been washed thoroughly.

- DO NOT smoke** whilst handling seeds and seed bags.

- Keep all seed bag labels** secure and make a note of which bags were used to drill each field.

- MAKE A RECORD** of what you have drilled and where, together with any problems which occurred. Where there has been a problem mark out the area in question and write down a description of what happened when and where.

See Agrichem Website for further details.

**FURTHER DETAILS ON RECOVERY OF SPILLED SEED
AND SAFE DISPOSAL ARE PROVIDED BELOW.**



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SPILLAGE GUIDE

- Carry suitable seed spillage equipment with you. See below:
- In case of spillages we recommend that the following items should be carried with the seed at all times:



A small shovel to gather up any spillages.



A plastic jug to help you handle any spilt seed.



A suitable bag or sack as seed may have to be gathered with stones and soil.

Make sure you write down the details and put them with the material so it can be disposed of safely. (See notebook above).

The Agrichem website has a recording sheet to allow users to keep an accurate record of which seed was drilled and where. See Drill Operators Recording Sheet.